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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Ian Michael Charles Shand

Serial No.: 10/725,831

Filed on: December 1, 2003

) Confirmation No.: 3593
)
) Examiner: NYA
)
) Group Art Unit No.: 2661
)

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SYNCHRONIZING A DATA
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 together with copies of the documents cited on that form, if needed. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in this statement is material to patentability.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted under one of the following (as indicated by an "X" to the left of the appropriate paragraph):



37 C.F.R. §1.97(b). It is respectfully requested that the cited documents be considered and that the enclosed Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 be initialed by the Examiner to indicate such consideration and a copy thereof returned to applicant(s).



37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If so, then this Information Disclosure Statement includes one of the following:

☐ A statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)

☐ 1.97(e)(1) The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

☐ 1.97(e)(2) The undersigned hereby states that no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

☐ A check for \$180.00 for the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

It is respectfully requested that the cited documents be considered and that the enclosed Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 be initialed by the Examiner to indicate such consideration and a copy thereof returned to applicant(s).

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If so, then this Information Disclosure Statement includes the following:

☐ A statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)

☐ 1.97(e)(1) The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement; OR

☐ 1.97(e)(2) The undersigned hereby states that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

☐ A check for \$180.00 for the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) for submission of the Information Disclosure Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the cited documents be considered and that the enclosed Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 be initialed by the Examiner to indicate such consideration and a copy thereof returned to applicant(s).

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(i). Applicants are submitting references to satisfy Applicants' disclosure obligations in hopes that the references will be considered by the Examiner. Although the submission does not fully meet 37 C.F.R. §1.97, Applicant respectfully requests that the cited documents be considered and that the enclosed Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 be initialed by the Examiner to indicate such consideration and a copy thereof returned to Applicant(s). It is understood that if the Examiner does not consider the cited references, the cited documents will be placed in the file pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(i).

Accordingly, copies of the references as listed on the attached Form PTO 1449 are submitted herewith. No certification or fees are deemed necessary.



The Examiner is hereby notified that the present application is related to the following related application(s):

DISCLOSURE OF RELATED APPLICATIONS

| U.S. Application/ Pat. No. | File Date | Atty. Docket. No. |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 10/848,669 | 05/18/2004 | 50325-0923 |
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The related application(s) may contain subject matter that is related to the subject matter of the present application. The related application(s) may contain one or more claims that may be substantially similar to one or more claims in the present application, and those claims may have been rejected in the related application(s). Therefore, the Examiner is encouraged to review the file history(ies) of the related application(s) as some of the information contained therein may be material to the examination of the present application.



The Examiner is hereby notified that for the following related application(s) an Office Action has been received as indicated below:

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICE ACTIONS

| U.S. Application/ Pat. No. | File Date | Office Action Mailing Date | Atty. Docket. No. |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 10/848,669 | 05/18/2004 | 03/28/2005 | 50325-0923 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

The related application(s) may contain one or more claims that may be substantially similar to one or more claims in the present application, and those claims may have been rejected in the related application(s). Therefore, the Examiner is encouraged to review the file history(ies) of the related application(s) as some of the information contained therein may be material to the examination of the present application.

Throughout the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees, including any required extension of time fees, and credit all overpayments to deposit account 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Dated: August 29, 2005



Christopher J. Palermo
Reg. No. 42,056

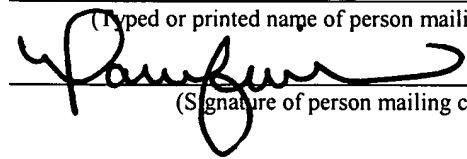
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

August 30, 2005
(Date of Deposit)

Maria Eivers

(Typed or printed name of person mailing correspondence)



(Signature of person mailing correspondence)

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|---|--|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------|--|
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION (PTO-1449) | | | | ATTY. DOCKET NO. 50325-0850 | | SERIAL NO. 10/725,831 | |
| | | | | APPLICANT: Ian Michael Charles Shand | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE: December 1, 2003 | | GROUP: 2661 | |

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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Exam. Initial* | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number | Kind Code ² (If known) | | | |
| | | 5,253,248 | | Dravida et al. | | |
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| Exam. Initial* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Office ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (If known) | | | | |
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| OTHER ART – NO PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published | Translation ² |
| | | WANG, ZHENG et al., "Shortest Path First with Emergency Exits," ACM 089791-405-8/90/0009/0166, 1990, pp. 166-176. | |
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|--------------------|-----------------|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
|--------------------|-----------------|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard S.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.